

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 25, 2003, claims 13, 16 and 18 have been cancelled and claims 1, 5, 14, 15 and 17 have been amended. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15 and 17 are now active in this application, of which claims 1, 5 and 15 are independent.

Based on the above Amendments and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections and they be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 4-19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) for being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,625,415 issued to Ueno, *et al.* ("Ueno") in view of France Patent Publication No. 2674036 issued to Mrejen ("Mrejen"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 recites "*a first memory unit for storing image data corresponding the image; focus control means ... for compressing the image data stored in the first memory unit; and a second memory unit for storing the compressed image data*".

In this regard, the Examiner asserted "Ueno reference discloses the focus control unit (138) compresses image data stored in first image storage unit (136) and restores compressed image data stored in second image storage unit (120) as shown in Fig. 10. (Office Action, Page 4). This assertion is respectfully disagreed with.

Ueno simply describes "an image recording apparatus 120 for recording image data output from the processing apparatus 114 on an information recording medium". Ueno does not teach or suggest that (a) the processing apparatus 114 compresses the image data stored in the frame memory and (b) the image recording apparatus 120 stores the compressed image data.

Mrejen is directed to a device for choosing a sharp zone comprising a touch screen 2, with which an operator can maximizing sharpness of a zone in an image by pushing the zone on the touch screen. However, Mrejen fails to teach or suggest (a) any processing unit that compresses image data stored in a memory and (b) any memory unit that stores the compressed image data.

Since none of the applied references teaches or suggests these claimed features, it would not have been obvious to combine the teachings of Ueno and Mrejen to arrive at the claimed invention. Thus, it is submitted that claim 1 is patentable over Ueno and Mrejen. Claim 4 that is dependent from claim 1 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Amended independent claim 5 recites "first image store means for storing image data corresponding to the image; ...; focus control means ... for compressing the image data stored in the first memory unit; and second image store means for storing the compressed image data", which are not taught or suggested by Ueno and Mrejen. Thus, it is submitted that claim 5 is patentable over the cited references. Claims 7, 8, 11 and 14 that are dependent from claim 5 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Amended independent claim 15 recites additional steps of (b) storing image data corresponding to the subject; (c) compressing the stored image data; (g) restoring the compressed image data. As previously mentioned, these claimed steps are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Thus, it is submitted that claim 15 is patentable over Ueno and Mrejen. Claim 17 that is dependent from claim 15 would be also patentable at least for the same reason.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection over claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 19 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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